

PREVAILING WIND

April 2005 The Official Newspaper of the 127th Wing, Selfridge ANGB, Michigan Volume 10 Issue 3



Photo by Master Sgt. Clancey Pence, 127th Multimedia

A C-5 Galaxy undergoes loading and unloading trials with the Army's prototype general purpose vehicle here. The exercise follows earlier tests of the vehicle on a C-130 Hercules from the 171st Airlift Squadron based here. The C-5 is from Dover Air Force Base, Del., with a mixed crew of active-duty and reserve Airmen.

SELFRIDGE HELPS DRIVE TRANSFORMATION

By Senior Airman Alec Lloyd
127th Wing Public Affairs

Selfridge Air National Guard Base recently hosted two increasingly familiar visitors: a C-5 Galaxy transport aircraft and a prototype of the Army's new MTV A1+ general purpose cargo vehicle. Both arrived on base on Saturday, March 12.

The MTV is designed to interface with both the C-5 and the C-130, and has the ability to drive for 72 hours without stopping to refuel. This ability to transfer cargo directly from the aircraft and carry it on long journeys gives it a degree of flexibility currently unknown.

In December, the 171st Aerial Port Flight assisted with evaluating the MTV's compatibility with C-130s evaluation, serving

as subject matter experts to determine if the vehicle could meet the demands of handling Air Force cargo. The Saturday exercises were to determine if the MTV was compatible with the C-5.

The MTV is produced locally by General Purpose Vehicles L.L.C. in New Haven and was developed as a result of experience in Iraq. The modular vehicle comes in many variants including six-, eight- and ten-wheeled versions.

"There is nothing like it now," said GPV Junior Executive Officer James LeBlanc, Jr. LeBlanc emphasized the quickness with which the MTV was developed in response to a changing military environment, a key element in the transformation now occurring throughout the Department of Defense.

See Selfridge on **Page 4**



Commander's Column

By Colonel Dave Miller
127th Airlift Group Commander



What does readiness mean to you? If you've been in the military as long as I have, you may remember when it meant showing up at drill with a haircut, clean uniform, shined boots and ready to get to work. For an ORE or ORI, mobility readiness meant bringing a "packed" bag so we could simulate deploying to a forward location. We would get our shot records and walk through the "mobility" line and go back to our work area. We would wait in another office or part of the building if not everyone had yet "deployed".

Today, mobility readiness has a completely different meaning. We not only need a packed bag, but must be current in our AFSC and CBRNE, have our gas masks fit tested, our personnel records up-to-date in the Virtual MPF and My Pay web sites, current PHA and dental exams, just to name a few requirements. Today, we do not talk about readiness only in terms of our ORE and ORI commitments, but in our commitments to actually deploy anywhere in the world at any time. This year we have had personnel from almost every section of the wing deploy to overseas locations (and continue to deploy regularly) in support of one operation or another. We also need to continue to be ready for compliance inspections. All of our preparation for inspections and deployments has kept the wing's readiness at a fairly high level, although we do have some areas that we need to continue to improve upon.

What about readiness in life outside the base gates? That is also critical to our ability to deploy. It is important that we keep our "outside" life ready not only for the potential deployments,

but also for potential personal disasters. It is important to remember that "tomorrow is promised to no one" and we should be prepared for that. Do you have enough life insurance? Do you have a current will? Does someone know where all of your legal documents are located? Is there someone that familiar with your banking? Does your family know that the 127th Family Readiness Office is here to help them when you're gone? These are just a few of many areas in our personal lives that we should make the effort to keep up-to-date. I have seen how families that have not had proper information or preparedness were very hard pressed in emergency situations when the military member was deployed. Remember, it is your family who will likely suffer from deficiencies in readiness in your personal life.

The next time you are in a mobility line or you are reviewing plans and training requirements, you will be looking at the requirements needed to accomplish military readiness. As you are reviewing your military readiness, please take the time look closely at your personal readiness. If you are not sure what you need in order to be personally ready to deploy or for personal disasters, there are many experts within our wing that can give you assistance.

The wing has several major inspections scheduled this year to judge our military readiness. I am confident that we will excel in all of them. Take the time to inspect your personal readiness. Make sure that you excel in that as well. Your family's well being could be jeopardized if you are anything less than outstanding.



...From the Chief's Desk

By Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Smith
127th Security Forces Squadron



The 127th Wing is a proud military organization and has a proven track record of mission accomplishment, with a wealth of talent in our military workforce. But do we always exhibit proper military bearing?

Customs, courtesies and proper military bearing were one of the first things we all learned when we joined the military. It troubles me that I do not always witness what we all learned many years ago. While walking with my commander to a ceremony last drill weekend, we came upon two Airmen heading towards us, who walked right by without rendering proper military etiquette in the form of a salute. When my commander mentioned, "I guess we don't salute officers any more," it dawned on me that I was part of the problem for failing to immediately address this breach of military courtesy. I am sure we have all witnessed similar incidents, but do we always stop and correct the breach of military bearing or even realize that proper customs and courtesy were not rendered?

The improper wearing of the uniform is another area of con-

cern. Do you always wear your cover when outside, even if just running from the car to the Base Exchange? Are boots polished? Is your uniform neat, pressed and complete? Is your coat zipped? Do you have an unsightly pen or pencil hanging from your uniform pocket? Do we address each other with proper military courtesy and etiquette?

It will take all levels of our organization to correct these issues. I would suggest all Airmen first ask themselves, "Am I portraying the proper military bearing and leading by example?" Should you witness these problems in your organizations, please stop and take the time to provide proper guidance. Senior NCOs should lead by example, providing guidance and examples to junior Airmen to emulate.

We are a proud organization and I know we all can set the example by exhibiting proper etiquette, professionalism, and military bearing. With the Operational Readiness Inspection fast approaching and the Inspector General (IG) staff coming in, we will be given only one chance to make a first impression. The time to make a difference is now!



**The Official
Newspaper
of the 127th Wing**

*A proud military organization
characterized by excellence and
integrity in the fulfillment of our duties
to our nation, community and to one
another.*

Command Staff

Commander

Brig. Gen. Richard Elliott

Vice Commander

Col. Michael Peplinski

Command Chief Master Sergeant

CMSgt. Stephen Krajewski

Public Affairs Staff

Public Affairs Officer

1st. Lt. Lisa Peek

Prevailing Wind Staff

Editor

Staff Sgt. Jason Custer

Staff Writers

Penny Carroll

Senior Airman Alec Lloyd

Senior Airman Samara Taylor

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military service. Contents of the Prevailing Wind are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 127th Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

For story or photograph
submissions, ideas or com-
ments for the paper, e-mail the
Prevailing Wind staff at:
prevailingwind@miself.ang.af.mil
Deadline for May issue:
Saturday, April 15

VICE COMMANDER AWARDED BRONZE STAR, AIR MEDAL

By Penny Carroll
127th Public Affairs

Colonel Michael Peplinski, 127th Wing vice commander, received the Bronze Star and Air Medal during Saturday morning roll-call at March's drill weekend while his family looked on.

"It's an honor to recognize Colonel Peplinski for the fantastic job he did while deployed," said Brig. General Richard Elliott, 127th Wing commander.

The Bronze Star is awarded to a person in any branch of the military who has distinguished himself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service. Colonel Peplinski distinguished himself with exceptionally meritorious conduct while serving as Commander of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, while engaged in ground operations against the enemy. While exposed to extreme danger from hostile bombings and mortar attacks, the exemplary performance of duty of Col. Peplinski resulted in significant contributions to the effectiveness of coalition forces in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Vigilant Resolve.

While serving as commander at Kirkuk, Col. Peplinski ensured close air support and aerial reconnaissance to coalition forces engaged in ground combat operations against terrorist insurgents. He



Photo by SrA Alec Lloyd, 127th Public Affairs

Shown here posing with the awards and his wife, Peggy, Colonel Peplinski said to those watching, "Receiving these awards is an honor that's very special to me, especially as I pass 25 years of military service. And that's a special number this year because my wife and I soon will celebrate our 25th anniversary."

directed the group's rapid implementation of force protection measures that secured the safety of personnel and aircraft in the face of 54 airfield attacks.

When placing the medal upon Col. Peplinski's uniform, General Elliott commented, "That looks good on you, Pep."

General Elliott then awarded Col. Peplinski the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight, also while serving in Iraq. Col. Peplinski flew a total of 14 combat missions supporting the U.S. military and coalition forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Honored at receiving the Air Force's 10th and 14th highest awards, Colonel Peplinski mentioned that it was support from home that really made the difference.

"It's an achievement that shows the efforts of all those deployed with me, but it's also due to the support I received from my family back home," he said.



Photo by John Swanson, 127th Multimedia

Col. Michael Peplinski, 127th Wing vice commander

Selfridge, continued from page 1

Operating out of Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, the C-5 had a mixed crew of active and reserve component Air Force members. After the MTV trials concluded on Saturday, the C-5 remained on base until Sunday, giving additional time for loading practice with the 171st APF.

"It's good training for us and for them," said Senior Airman Britt Turner, a reservist with the 326th Airlift Squadron who flew in with the C-5. She noted that coordination between active, Guard and reserve elements of the Air Force was excellent and that C-5 training flights to Selfridge were becoming more com-

mon.

Selfridge members agree about the benefits. "We're here to give some support to the C-5 crew," said Senior Master Sgt. David Bradford, 171st Aerial Port Flight NCOIC, shortly after the C-5 arrived. "Tomorrow is our turn to play with it."

The increasing frequency of C-5 visits and the role Selfridge members are playing in testing new equipment show that the 127th remains on the cutting edge of military development and training.



Learning starts early

Staff Sgt. Christopher Golema, 127th Command Post, passes out gifts Feb. 25, during a visit to Miss Andrea Steull's kindergarten class at Wilde Elementary School in Sterling Heights, Mich. Gifts were provided by the 107th Fighter Squadron, 171st Airlift Squadron, 127th Wing Command Post and Recruiting.

Courtesy photo



Practice makes perfect

Members of the 127th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department train on how to properly process through decontamination last UTA in preparation for the April Operational Readiness Exercise in Alpena, Mich. Left: Tech. Sgt. Lloyd Bigham, Containment Control Area team member, watches two fire department members remove external Chemical Protective Overgarment bunker gear.

Below: Members work together to properly configure the exhalation valve before removing their jackets.



Photos by Senior Airman Samara Taylor, 127th Public Affairs

SELFRIDGE LEADS WAY IN NEW TRAINING

By Senior Airman Samara Taylor and
Senior Airman Alec Lloyd

127th Wing Public Affairs

In the past, Air National Guard units had to make do with older equipment and out-dated training methods. Now, the 127th Wing has reversed this role and is now using cutting-edge technology and training other units to use it, as well.

The Theatre Airborne Reconnaissance System, or TARS, offers great improvements over previous equipment and methods of reconnaissance. As the only Air National Guard unit to have full operational knowledge of TARS, the 127th Wing is training other Air Guard wings in the maintenance of the system.

Master Sergeant Keith Lalonde, an avionics flight line technician with the 127th Maintenance Squadron, is responsible for educating other Air National Guard maintenance units. Two F-16 Guard units have been trained so far, the 148th Fighter Squadron of Duluth, Minnesota and the 188th Fighter Squadron of Fort Smith, Arkansas. The 147th Fighter Squadron from Houston, Texas, will be trained in May.

"It reflects very highly on the unit," Sergeant Lalonde said. "It shows that Selfridge has gone above and beyond ordinary

Guard units to help put this system in place."

TARS is a tactical reconnaissance podded system capable of real-time air-to-air and air-to-ground wideband imagery transmission. Pictures that are taken by TARS are electronically recorded on a magnetic tape and extracted by an imagery analyst.

"The theatre commander designates which pictures to take," says Senior Master Sgt. Natalie Bingham, 107th Fighter Squadron imagery analyst. "Objects can be detected up to one meter in size."

Commanders prefer using the imagery system for multiple reasons, including picture quality and the ability to lighten dark pictures. The reconnaissance images acquired by TARS allows pilots to survey enemy territory. Commanders also can also use the pictures for battle damage assessments and battlefield preparation.

"TARS has the capability to have clear images readily available to the commander within thirty minutes of the aircraft's landing," Sergeant Bingham said.

TARS can utilize pre-determined geographical coordinates to complete its mission, allowing pilots to focus on other tasks, while still obtaining important tactical information.

Lt. Colonel Nathaniel Dickman of the 107th Fighter Squadron said that word of the wing's expertise has spread far and wide.

"If there are test flights or other issues with TARS, Selfridge gets the call," he said. Colonel Dickman also noted that the 127th Wing's extensive work with TARS was in addition to the normal duties already assigned, and that, despite the heavy workload, members had maintained the highest standards. "It is a real tribute to all of the people involved."

The wing's role in passing on its hard-won knowledge to other Air National Guard units demonstrates once again the important work 127th Wing members are doing in Michigan and around the world.



Photo by Senior Airman Samara Taylor, 127th Public Affairs

Tech. Sgts. Steve Adamski and Glen Flanagan, Duluth, Minn., work on the Electro-Magnetic Interface on the TARS.

AUTOCRAFT CENTER OFFERS MEMBERS AFFORDABLE REPAIR AND HOBBY TOOLS

By Senior Airman Alec Lloyd

127th Public Affairs

Many traditional Guard members of the 127th Wing may not be aware of the numerous benefits of serving at Selfridge.

The Autocraft Center is one of those little-known facilities that can be of tremendous use to members and their families.

Located in Building 104, the facility provides an economical

way for members to repair or improve their automobiles.

Among the services available are oil changes, motor tune ups, wheel balancing, tire repair, engine overhaul, car washing, brake service, transmission service, and repairs to electrical, cooling, fuel and exhaust systems. The center also offers safe disposal for hazardous materials such as used oil and other toxic fluids.

See Autocraft on **Page 6**

Autocraft, continued from page 5

The shop hosts multiple bays with hoists and a full array of tools – everything needed for professional-grade automotive work. The Autocraft Center even maintains an extensive electronic database containing manuals for almost every car. Bays can be used for as little as two dollars an hour.

“It is a money saver,” said Gunnery Sgt. Paul Posey, a prior service recruiter for the Marine Corps. “I’m out here every weekend.”



Photo by Senior Airman Alec Lloyd, 127th Public Affairs

Gunnery Sgt. Paul Posey, a Marine recruiter, repairs a part for the engine on his 1977 Chevrolet Nova.

Retired Marine and Operations Officer for Program Executive Office Combat Support and Combat Service Support Dennis Haag agreed.

“The hobby shops on this base offer great value,” Haag said. “I’ve seen some folks in here do complete vehicle restoration.”

Haag was working on his second brake job of the day, having finished his wife’s car earlier. He estimated that he saved at least \$500 by doing the work himself at the Autocraft Center.

“It’s a great facility,” Haag added. “I’ve been coming here for 12 years.”

One of the great strengths of the center is its knowledgeable and friendly staff. People like Mike Porter, a Navy veteran, are available to provide advice and assistance on many projects.

“Anybody, whether they know something or not, we help them,” Porter said. That help even extends to helping evaluate prospective car purchases and offering second opinions on repair estimates given by outside shops.

The Autocraft Center can be reached at (586) 307-4535 and is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sundays, Saturday and federal holidays, and from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. It is closed on Thursday and Friday.

FINANCIAL RELIEF AVAILABLE

By Penny Carroll
127th Wing Public Affairs

Unfortunate events can happen to anyone. But when misfortune arrives at the doorstep of a Michigan National Guard Airmen or Soldier, they can now turn to Michigan National Guard Family Fund, Inc., for financial assistance.

The Family Fund is a non-profit corporation (501c3) that provides financial assistance to Guard members for groceries, heating bills, car repair costs, and other financial needs. Being tax-exempt allows the organization to donate money to Airmen and Soldiers who have financial needs for basic living expenses. All monies from the fund are received through donations made by the public.

The amount of financial assistance from the Michigan National Guard Family Fund is limited to a total of \$500 per family every 12 months. The fund does require a letter stating the individual need and copies of bills or some other means of proof that includes enough information to demonstrate how the funds are being used.

Sergeant Ken Fahnestock, Family Program Assistant at the State Family Program Office, stated, “We address real-life issues that folks have, understanding that people don’t plan for these types of difficulties to come up. We aren’t here to judge them, we

want to help them.” They have already provided assistance to almost 100 Guard members throughout the state of Michigan this fiscal year.

Assistance can be provided within 24 hours if necessary. Requests for relief can be made for a variety of circumstances, including

- Loss of income due to activation for military duty
- Inability to maintain a job due to injury or sudden illness
- Unexpected medical costs
- Pay problems
- Unexpected accumulation of legitimate bills

Michigan National Guard Family Fund, Inc., is not to be confused with the Michigan Family Relief Fund, a state organization that provides assistance to Michigan Guard and reserve members experiencing financial hardships as a result of active duty or a line of duty related injury or illness. Family Fund, Inc., is for all Guard members and their families, regardless of duty status.

For more information about how the National Guard Family Fund can help you, contact the 127th Wing Family Program Action Officer, Major George DiMichele, (586)307-4224, 127th Family Readiness Group at (586)307-5583, or Master Sgt. Janet Weber, State Family Program Coordinator, at (517) 702-5104.

NEWCOMERS

Staff Sgt. Joshua Adams



*Unit: 127th Wing
HomeTown: Brighton, Mich.*

Airman 1st Class Eric Burgess



*Unit: 127th Wing
HomeTown: Roseville, Mich.*

Airman 1st Class LaJuan Cain



*Unit: 127th Communication Flight
HomeTown: Detroit*

Staff Sgt. Rickey Dailey



*Unit: 127th Wing
HomeTown: Clarkston, Mich.*

Airman 1st Class Chantal Dixon



*Unit: 127th Wing
HomeTown: Detroit*

Senior Airman Frederick Feeley Jr.



*Unit: 127th Wing
HomeTown: Taylor, Mich.*

Airman 1st Class Stacey Fisher



*Unit: 127th Wing
HomeTown: Brighton, Mich.*

Staff Sgt. Joseph Gootee



*Unit: 127th Wing
HomeTown: Novi, Mich.*

Airman 1st Class Shawn Oommen



*Unit: 127th Security Forces Squadron
HomeTown: Los Angeles*

Staff Sgt. Nolan Rodriguez



*Unit: 127th Wing
HomeTown: Flushing, Mich.*

Staff Sgt. Steven Stocking



*Unit: 127th Medical Squadron
HomeTown: St. Petersburg, Fla.*

Senior Airman Erik Wolford



*Unit: 127th Wing
HomeTown: Waterford, Mich.*

NEWS BRIEFS

2005 UTA DATES

<i>April 16-17</i>	<i>Aug. 13-14</i>
<i>May 14-15</i>	<i>Sept. 10-11</i>
<i>June 11-12</i>	<i>Oct. 1-2</i>
<i>July 16-17</i>	<i>Nov. 5-6</i>
	<i>Dec. 3-4</i>

2005 AIR SHOW

The Navy's Blue Angels will headline the Selfridge 2005 Air Show and Open House May 21 and 22. For more information regarding the Air Show, log on to www.selfridgeairshow.org

CELEBRATIONS 2005

Observances are conducted to recognize the continuous achievements of all Americans and to increase awareness, mutual respect and understanding of different cultures. Observances are designed to enhance cross-cultural and cross-gender awareness and promote harmony among

all military members, their families, and the civilian work force.

These activities are extensions of the equal opportunity education and training objectives. The observance days are set aside annually to recognize achievements and contributions made by members of specific groups in our society. The focus of the observance should be directed toward encouraging interaction and not just recognition. Success can be measured by the degree of cross-cultural and cross-gender participation.

So far this year the 127th Wing and Selfridge Air National Guard Base have celebrated Martin Luther King's Birthday (Remember! Celebrate! Act!), Black History Month (The Niagara Movement), and Women's History Month (Women Change America).

Coming up soon will be Days of Remembrance, May 1 - 8 (From Liberation to the Pursue of Justice), and Asian Pacific Heritage Month, May 1 - 31. Wing members can find a variety of

events throughout the Selfridge community, as well as in the metro- Detroit areas that celebrate these various observances.

HONOR GUARD CLASS

The Selfridge Base Honor Guard will conduct a class for all members interested in joining the Honor Guard. The class will be led by Wright-Patterson Air Force Base personnel.

The class will be held from Sept. 19-23, in Building 160 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Interested members must attend this 40-hour class to be a fully qualified Honor Guard member. Class size is limited and will fill up quickly, so call as soon as possible. Members will be placed on MPA status that will be funded by Wright-Patterson. The uniform of the day will be BDUs with the final day being service dress uniform.

To register, interested members should contact Tech. Sgt. James Hudson, (586) 307-5170/4003.

*Headquarters
127th Wing
29553 George Ave.
Selfridge ANGB, MI 48045-5029*

First Class

